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EIGHT NATIONS SIGN AMAZON PACT IN BRASILIA

PY032218Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2030 GMT 30 Jul 78 PY

[Relay from Brasilia by reporter Nogueira Saraiva]

[Text] In a ceremony presided over by President Ernesto Geisel at Planalto Palace, the foreign ministers of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela have just signed a treaty on economic cooperation--what has been called the Amazon Pact--which will have an unlimited duration and will not be open to admission by other countries. Therefore, this treaty will be restricted to the eight countries which signed it today.

Pursuant to Article 1 of the treaty, the objective of the Amazon Pact is to carry out joint efforts and actions to promote the harmonious development of the Amazon territories of the eight signatories in such a manner that these joint actions yield equitable and mutually beneficial results, protect the environment, and preserve and rationally utilize the natural resources of these territories.

The document guarantees each signatory, on a reciprocal basis, complete freedom of commercial navigation on the course of the Amazon River and other international rivers of the Amazon region, with the exception of port-to-port navigation [navigacao de cabotagem]. It states the decision to make efforts to utilize rationally the region's water resources and establishes measures designed to rationally plan the exploitation of the fauna and flora of the Amazon region, to maintain the ecological balance in the region and to preserve existing species.

It establishes the coordination of health organizations to improve existing health conditions in the region to prevent and fight endemic diseases. It calls for close cooperation in the area of scientific and technological research to accelerate the economic development of the region and recognizes the need to develop retail trade of local products between border towns. It also emphasizes the need to establish adequate physical infrastructural facilities in the eight countries, especially in the fields of communications and transportation.

The Amazon Pact also states that each signatory will be entitled to the exclusive exploitation and use of the natural resources existing in its territory as a right inherent to each state's sovereignty and, in exercising this right, each country will observe no restrictions other than those established by international law.

Finally, it is proper to state that the Amazon Pact will not prevent its signatories from signing bilateral or multilateral agreements on generic or specific issues, as long as they are not contrary to the common objectives of cooperation in the Amazon region, an objective which has been agreed upon in the document signed today.

Brazilian President's Speech

PY040403Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Speech by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel at signing ceremony of Amazon Pact in Brasilia on 3 July--recorded]

[Excerpts] Foreign ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela; ambassadors accredited before the Brazilian Government; Mr Vice President of Brazil; President of the federal Senate; Cabinet ministers; senators; and deputies; members of delegations of countries from the Amazon region; gentlemen:

The Common desire of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela is forging today the historic emergence of a new Amazon region which will become a land of reunion and cooperation among the peoples of America. For the first time on this continent, the foreign ministers of Amazon countries, whom I am honored to welcome and whom I thank for their presence in Brasilia in the name of the Brazilian Government, have joined Brazil in expressing the unanimous decision of the Amazon countries to renew the foundations of international coexistence in this region through a broad cooperation agreement.

The intensification of socioeconomic life had to force a change in the diplomacy regarding the Amazon region, which is now making a qualitative move to place itself in leading an accelerated movement of progress. Although there are intensified contacts among countries of the region, these contacts can no longer be framed within narrow, traditional patterns which, while they are cordial and friendly in the political field, have little socioeconomic significance. The need for change also stems from other factors; including the worldwide accepted tendency of treating problems affecting large geographical regions shared by several countries in a coordinated manner, through cooperation agreements.

Aware that conditions existed calling for a change in this situation, the Brazilian Government decided in March last year to hold consultations with the other governments about the need to formally give a legal status to a regional process of cooperation which was already underway in the region. The harmonious and constructive spirit which guided these negotiations was again reflected in the decision to hold a meeting in Caracas in which the final draft of the pact was approved, thus revealing a unanimous support for the proposal, which now belongs equally to each of us, without differences in degree or intensity.

The enthusiasm shown by the parties involved and their permanent disposition to reconcile viewpoints have resulted in a text which, being the result of a true, collective effort, is both relative and strong. This pact is primarily aimed at creating mechanisms which would make the contacts among governments and experts of the area more frequent and periodical, and not occasional and casual as they have been thus far.

There can be no a priori restriction of cooperation within a framework of cooperation unless it be restriction which the parties spontaneously decide to impose to each other. The list of joint investment opportunities, although being quite exhaustive, will nonetheless be only indicative.

Priority must also be assigned to the exchange of experience in the area of regional development, and joint efforts must be made in scientific and technological research. Unlike other areas of the continent, which were occupied under well-known ecological conditions, the Amazon is a region still to be discovered. It has been said that the solution of the Amazon problem depends on development of a technology based on production and health, adjusted to the conditions of equatorial vegetation. This is the technology we must develop, since it will be to no avail to resort to traditional, self-indulgent practices [comodismo] which would convert us--as they did in the past--into importers of expensive technology, which is usually not adequate for our needs. Northern industrialized centers, having a different ecology, will be unable to provide us with the key to civilization in the tropical region.

Although each of these territories and projects can be considered valid for scientific reasons, they all contribute to pursuing a higher objective, that is, emphasizing that the development and preservation of the Amazon region is the exclusive responsibility of the countries of the region.

No one should consider the real threats which still hang over this exclusive responsibility to be imaginary. Until the recent past, the apparent imbalance between the large, sparsely populated Amazon region and its economic potential, on the one hand, individually, and the meager resources of the Amazon countries on the other, stimulated neither overt or disguised desires of penetration or domination. Although these desires were first directly aimed at disputing the possession of the land, these attempts at interfering in the region can now take the more subtle form of concern for good will. With arguments lacking scientific support, fantastic situations are imagined to question the ability or determination to preserve the region of the local governments.

Then they speak of international solidarity, which is denied, however, when the objective is to fight underdevelopment. Without overlooking the importance and seriousness of environment problems, without questioning the sincerity and good faith of many, let me state that no one has better title and reason than we to look after the equilibrium on which our own future heavily depends. This exclusive responsibility we all share in the Amazon region implies a duty which we must fulfill; otherwise, we will be impairing our own potential. The countries of this region cannot turn their backs on the Amazon challenge because this would condemn South America to be forever a peripheral region without a center, with populations crowded along the coasts and in valleys but without communications lines which would give life to the heart of the continent.

These problems will not be solved through idle abstentionism or by relinquishing progress. Through tenacious, intelligent action, by being permanently willing to review realistic methods, we will be able to overcome our difficulties. Brazilian diplomacy has always stated that the concern over the Amazon region can be meaningful only if it takes into account the man who lives in that region, that the worst form of pollution is misery and underdevelopment. Guided by these principles, we will be able to carry on with determination and equilibrium our efforts to improve the Amazon region--which some would like to see stagnate--for the benefit of man.

Brazilian Foreign Minister's Comment

PY041417Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 4 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Jul--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira affirmed today that the Amazon Pact will transform that region, making it a showcase of cooperation for the benefit of many Latin American countries. In a speech at the lunch for the foreign ministers of the signatories, Azeredo da Silveira said that the pact will act as a catalyst, awakening new interests and inspiring projects of cooperation. He added that the pact binds the countries of the region to work for the development and preservation of the Amazon region, to prevent any possibility of internationalization or foreign interference.

No member of the pact will give up any sovereignty to develop its own territory within the area, but will receive the benefits of multilateral cooperation, Azeredo da Silveira stated. The Brazilian foreign minister pointed out that the rule of unanimity of decisions included in the pact will preclude any possibility of one country's exercising hegemony or of any majority group of countries creating confrontations with minority countries.

MONTES DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PYO41527Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1220 GMT 4 July 78 PY

[By Victor Lapegna]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Jul--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes indicated to AFP today that relations between Argentina and the United States are hindered by Washington's lack of understanding of the problem of terrorism.

Montes stated that current disagreements between his country and the United States persist because some countries have failed to understand the danger of international terrorism, referring guardedly but directly to the United States.

The Argentine foreign minister said that the OAS continues to be a useful organization, as long as the member-countries help make it the appropriate forum for the discussion of inter-American problems. In this regard Montes indicated that this will be possible as long as it is understood that such discussions must not affect national self-determination or imply interference in the problems of any given country. Montes said that "we should blame ourselves if the OAS has failed to solve any of the severe inter-American problems in the last few years."

With regard to the difference of viewpoints toward human rights between the United States and some Latin American countries, among them Argentina, Montes indicated that knowledge of international terrorism and guerrilla warfare is necessary to understand the situation of the continent. Montes added that "an understanding will be reached only when all OAS members become fully aware of the dangers which terrorism entails for any organized society, and only after punishments for agents and perpetrators of terrorism are studied and applied."

On the code of behavior for multinational enterprises approved by an OAS committee and voted against by the United States, Montes indicated that U.S. approval is not necessary. The Argentine foreign minister indicated that these companies must abide by the internal rules and regulations of each country is not only important for their activities but compulsory on the mere basis of principles of international law.

As for a possible visit by him to the Soviet Union, Montes said that it is being studied, but added that President Videla would not make a decision before the return of Navy Commander in Chief Massera from his visit to Romania. Massera is scheduled to return at the beginning of July. Massera's Romanian visit was the first to a socialist country by a member of the military junta, which took power on 24 March 1976. This visit was preceded by the one which Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz made to the PRC in May.

With regard to the African situation, Montes said that his government is closely following the Cuban intervention in that continent, an intervention which, according to Montes, will give rise to severe international disturbances. It is expected that this view will influence Argentina's position toward Cuba's presence at the coming meeting of nonaligned countries to be held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

On the possibility of reaching a defense agreement on the southern Atlantic, Montes stated that this problem is under constant consideration by the Argentine Government, but he declared that no bilateral or multilateral studies on security plans for this part of the ocean have been made.

On the disagreements between Argentina and Brazil, with regard to the hydroelectric utilization of the Parana River, Montes stated that he felt very optimistic concerning a solution because Argentina's position is as usual imbued with a negotiating spirit.

However, with regard to the Argentine-Chilean negotiations on their southern border, Montes stated that he was only relatively optimistic. These negotiations were reopened yesterday by the binational commission which is meeting in Buenos Aires. Montes told AFP that the current government wants to solve the conflict by means of negotiations and recalled that there are still 4 months left for negotiations, which is why he considered his relative optimism justified.

AGOSTI ASSESSES ARMED FORCES' ROLE IN GOVERNMENT

PY032357Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1705 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jul--Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, air force commander in chief, has reiterated that one of the main objectives of the process of national reorganization "is to end the succession of weak civilian governments and strong military governments."

He added: "This objective is complemented by our desire for a pluralist democracy, as we have clearly outlined in our basic objectives. Therefore, the people must contribute with their efforts to conducting public affairs and, in this respect, their contributions will be taken into account in the thorough studies which are now being made by the armed forces and will be included in a political document."

General Agosti added: "The question of when and how will be answered only after this document has been released.

"However, those sectors of opinion advocating our traditional principles--a true, effective federal system with the necessary authority, equilibrium and effectiveness on the part of the government--will be able to cooperate in principle and will be able to gradually assume the government's executive responsibilities under the control, supervision and support of the armed forces."

After stating that the basic documents of the process have established the functions and powers bestowed upon the military junta and the national executive branch, and after stating that the conclusions of the detailed study--which is now being conducted by the armed forces on what has been called [word indistinct]--will be added to the above documents, General Agosti indicated that the armed forces "have jointly and solidarily assumed responsibility for the process. Therefore, they are participating in this task at all levels, without setting dates which may impose time limits on this participation."

General Agosti added: "Strongly committed to the task of guaranteeing the achievement of its basic objectives, the armed forces will continue through their personnel to meet the requirements which, pursuant to the process of reorganization, they may consider necessary for the government's action."

As for the future role assigned to the armed forces in the country's institutional organization, he said: "Apart from the traditional duties outlined in the constitution, it is proper to consider the phenomenon posed by the armed forces' continued involvement in governmental functions, as can be seen in our history. Therefore, the armed forces' influence as a factor of power must be objectively considered and then we must study the best way of institutionalizing their dynamics, by incorporating them into a truly democratic framework, which would be truly representative and in which our republican principles would be fully in force. If we want to achieve and to maintain political stability, we must be most cautious and careful not to overlook important variables in the Argentine social reality and their possible projection." General Agosti also discussed the Argentine conflicts of sovereignty with neighboring countries. He said: "Our neighbors, as mature countries, should understand that equity is the guiding principle of justice and that the bilateral treatment of disagreements is perfectly in keeping with international law." These remarks were published in the latest issue of the magazine PLANTEO.

BEAGLE NEGOTIATING COMMISSION CONCLUDES SESSION

PYO42348Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2245 GMT 4 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Jul--The deliberations of the working group of the Argentine-Chilean commission No 2, which had been renewed here, concluded at 1930. The session had begun at 1830 and had proceeded without the presence of the chairmen of the respective delegations.

PRESS GROUP CONCERNED OVER EDITOR'S DISAPPEARANCE

PYO31612Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1205 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 3 Jul--The executive board of the Argentine Newspaper owners Association (ADEPA), at its regular meeting, expressed concern over the disappearance of journalist Julia Delgado, editor of the daily EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL and the magazine MERCADO, and urged the government to "make all necessary efforts to clear up such an unpleasant situation."

The executive board also expressed its "solidarity with the family of the colleague."

The executive board also discussed a note from the director of the magazine LA NUEVA DEMOCRACIA, which reported that private distribution agencies are hindering circulation of the magazine.

ADEPA's executive board decided to protest this by stating that "the free circulation of any newspaper throughout the nation is protected by the national constitution and appropriate laws. For this reason, ADEPA repudiates the inadmissible attitude of distributors responsible for hindering the circulation and sale of LA NUEVA DEMOCRACIA and supports the view of its editor, Juan C. Ortiz, who reported to the court this situation which is punishable under Article 161 of the penal code." At the same time, ADEPA has decided to express its solidarity with the editors of the publication.

After expressing its "concern" over the disappearance of Delgado, ADEPA's executive board expressed "pleasure" with regard to the recent approval of Decree No 2114, which abrogated "certain measures which hindered the dissemination of news and the tasks of news agencies."

POLICE DISBAND PERONIST DEMONSTRATION

PA021202Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0213 GMT 2 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Jul (AFP)--A crowd estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 persons gathered here tonight in a downtown church, located some 200 yards from the government house, to hear a mass in memory of former Argentine President Juan Domingo Peron.

The demonstration was broken up by the federal police using tear gas which caused a stampede in the Plaza de Mayo in front of the Pink House (presidential palace), a local press agency said.

The Argentine private news agency described the police action as "strong" and said blood stains had been found in a street.

The report added that the police arrested two persons and that another had been injured but it did not reveal the extent of injuries.

Patrol and attack cars, together with police armed with tear gas grenade launchers [itakas] and machineguns, confronted the Peronist demonstrators who, after hearing mass on the fourth anniversary of Peron's death, tried to march to the Plaza de Mayo, the traditional meeting place of the deceased leader and his followers.

The church was completely full long before the beginning of the religious ceremony scheduled for 1900 (2200 GMT). Some people had to stand outside.

The crowd chanted party slogans, including some demanding "freedom for Isabel," referring to former Argentine President Isabel Peron, overthrown by the military in 1976 and now detained at a naval base.

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE-JAPANESE AGREEMENT--Bahia Blanca, 27 June--The Japanese ship Banshu Maru, which belongs to the Tayso Argentina Corporation, which is made up of five companies, has been incorporated into the Ingeniero White Fishing complex. The Banshu Maru will be used for fishing activities at the local maritime station. The incorporation of the Banshu Maru is a result of an agreement signed between Argentina and Japan which also provides for the incorporation of an oceanographic vessel to carry out research activities on the national continental shelf. The Japanese group also intends to incorporate two new fishing boats to Ingeniero White: the Koko Maru and the Asakaze. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1407 GMT 27 Jun 78 PY]

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY RESIGNS--Buenos Aires, 28 Jun--The national executive branch has accepted the resignation of Gen Alberto Vicente Nieto (ret) as communications secretary. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1332 GMT 28 Jun 78 PY]

COMMERCIAL MISSION TO PRC--Buenos Aires, 27 Jun--The commerce and international economic negotiations secretariat has announced that an Argentine commercial mission will soon visit the PRC. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0004 GMT 27 Jun 78 PY]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MALTA--Buenos Aires, 30 Jun--The Argentine Embassy in Italy will take charge of diplomatic and economic relations with the Republic of Malta. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1340 GMT 30 Jun 78 PY]

FSB, FUDP MEMBERS CLASH IN EL ALTO

PY032116Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1640 GMT 5 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Edil Sandoval Moron, vice presidential candidate for the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], stated today that the information released last night with regard to events which took place in El Alto yesterday had been distorted. These events involved a clash which took place in El Alto yesterday between members of the FUDP and Gaston Moreira's Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] who had attended two different meetings. As a result of this clash several persons were injured, one of them by gunshot.

The FSB faction which supports Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's candidacy has now called its members for a meeting to discuss the situation.

Sandoval Moron provided his own version of the events to Radio Fides. [begin Sandoval Moron recording] Just when we were closing the meeting and sending the people home with our usual recommendation to not respond to provocation, we were surprised by gunshots. The shooting came from vehicles which appeared behind us. The people who had shot at us left their cars and charged at our people. [passage indistinct] The FUDP members were forced to pick up stones and defend themselves, thus making the attackers flee. [end recording] Sandoval Moron then went on to discuss the report provided yesterday evening by the state-owned TV. [begin Sandoval Moron recording] Once again Bolivian television has been used to divide and cause confrontation among Bolivians by allowing the aggressors against the FUDP to give their own biased version of events. Once again Bolivian television has shown that it is at the service of the official candidate and, worse still, that it is encouraging division of the Bolivian family. [end recording]

Sandoval Moron also reported that the FUDP is preparing two political rallies to close its electoral campaign. The first of these rallies will be held in Patacamaya at noon tomorrow and the second and last rally will be held at San Francisco Square in La Paz. This latter rally will be attended by FUDP supporters from all over the country. He indicated that these rallies are peaceful and not aggressive like those staged by Pereda's FSB.

Walter Rios Gamboa, under secretary of the Interior Ministry, stated today that this ministry will not allow any clashes and urged all political parties to abandon violent attitudes. Upon leaving Government House he said: [begin Rios Gamboa recording] We are abiding by legal and constitutional principles and it is our duty to preserve social peace and tranquillity. Therefore, we will not allow any belligerent attitudes. We will persuade all political parties to abandon belligerent attitudes and to help maintain this peaceful coexistence within the framework of mutual respect and law. [end recording]

Juan Lechin Oquendo, top leader of the Bolivian Labor Central and leader of the Revolutionary Party of the National Left, harshly criticized the events which took place in El Alto yesterday. He said that he had learned of events from reports released by various news media. The mining leader indicated that the Revolutionary Front of the Left, of which his party is a member, had been the first to report the outrages staged by progovernment forces against the opposition. [begin Lechin Oquendo recording] None of the opposition parties should be surprised by the attitude of the government or the official candidate. There is a fascist mentality and they do not care if they restrict freedoms [words indistinct]. They cannot tolerate any criticism about the country's bankruptcy, the mortgaging of the country and their inability to administer the billions of dollars received from abroad. That is why they continue to terrorize the people. [end recording]

ELECTORAL COURT HEAD WORRIED BY EXCESSES

PY040309Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Excerpts] Julio Mantilla Larrea, president of the National Electoral Court, encouraged the citizenry today to strictly observe legal provisions, now that we are only a few hours away from the most serious civic responsibility of Bolivians.

Mantilla indicated that he was worried about the excesses which had occurred in the last few days, and he said that calm must prevail.

Mantilla also reported that the arrival of two OAS observers was confirmed. They are Mr (Julio Prado ?B.), Ecuadorean, and Mr (Adolfo Molina), Guatemalan. The two representatives will arrive in the next few hours and will be given all the needed assistance to accomplish their mission of observing the 9 July electoral process.

COCHABAMBA RIGHTS ASSEMBLY TO SHUN ELECTIONS

PY050236Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jul 78 PY

[Relay from El Panamericana correspondent in Cochabamba]

[Text] The Cochabamba Departmental Human Rights Assembly [Asamblea Departamental de Derechos Humanos], after thoroughly reviewing the characteristics of the pre-electoral period at a meeting with its [word indistinct] sectors, stated that they will not participate as official observers in the national and departmental electoral courts nor in the 9 July elections, because of the lack of constitutional guarantees and democratic freedoms which have characterized the preelectoral period.

A document released to the press states that there is evident electoral fraud expressed through: 1) the physical and psychological pressure exercised by officials, mainly in peasant communities; 2) the partiality, inefficiency and helplessness of the national and departmental electoral courts in punishing obvious crimes which were denounced by political parties, peasants and this Human Rights Assembly; 3) the misuse of state funds coming from state institutions, from [word indistinct] to city halls, subprefectures, peasant-military pacts, national service for [word indistinct] of the community and public employees on behalf of the official candidacy.

FORMER PRESIDENT EXPECTED TO RETURN PERMANENTLY

PY010209Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Sources close to former President Gen Alfredo Ovando Candia, who recently left for Spain, said that he will probably return to Bolivia for good before the year's end. General Candia left for Madrid at the beginning of the month after a brief stay in Bolivia, during which he took part in political activities. Some of his relatives today stated that the trip helped him to assess the nation's political and economic panorama, and to prove that he could readapt himself to the country. For this reason it is possible that he may return to stay before the end of the year.

FIVE CAPTURED U.S. FISHING BOATS FINED, RELEASED

FY011208Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jun 78 p 9 FY

[Text] Belem--The five U.S. boats captured almost 2 weeks ago off the Amapa coast by the northern naval group were freed yesterday. According to the port authority, the ships Liberty, Dan Break, Queen Shrimper, Midnight III and Shallon Weter will leave the maneuvering bay of the Para Dock Company at 0400.

The release of the ships was completed only the day before yesterday by the port authority, after the U.S. Consulate in Belem confirmed the payment of a 450,000-cruzeiro fine (90,000 for each fishing vessel) which, in turn, will be reimbursed by the ships' owners.

Yesterday, the Japanese consul in Belem, Kenju Ishikawa, said that his country's consulate has nothing to do with the capture of three-to-six shrimp vessels by the navy last week. He confirmed that the Japanese government will not pay the fine of 90,000 cruzeiros for each vessel which is demanded by the port authority. He added that Itamaraty should say something about the matter.

ESTADO SAYS CARTER TOO TOUGH WITH L.A.

FY010118Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jun 78 p 3 FY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Coherence Regarding Human Rights Is Essential"]

[Excerpt] In a recent commentary on President Carter's speech opening the eighth General Assembly of the Organization of American States, we expressed satisfaction with the U.S. President's announcement that he had decided to step up his human rights policy in the Americas. As followers of this cause, which is the most noble objective the U.S. policy could have, we believed that Carter has already proven that he is capable of viewing the problem from the correct angle and not discriminating between small and weak countries toward which he was very strict with regard to violations of human rights, and ultra-powerful countries toward which he was extremely tolerant. We had not been altogether fooled when Carter defended his assistant Zbigniew Brzezinski, who, among all the members of Carter's team, is the strongest critic of Soviet and Cuban violations of human rights. Brzezinski calls for concrete reprisals against such communist outrages and ties the signing of military and trade agreements with the USSR to the latter's fulfillment of the regulations established by the final act of the Helsinki Conference and the termination of military expansionism which the socialist bloc is carrying out in Africa.

The fact is that sharp observers like Raymond Aron and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who come from different (though complementary) cultural environments--one being a rational Westerner and the other a slavophile and mystical Russian--agree on one item: both believe that Carter's policy for the defense of human rights is more rhetoric when applied to the communist bloc.

We should recall the opinion of these two thinkers in connection with the retaliation policy which President Carter decided to implement toward Chile. It would be too much to ask the U.S. President for coherence. He would be coherent if--in addition to defending Brzezinski--he broke his ties with the ultraprogressive elements of his government which seem to be responsible for current U.S. policy toward Latin America. The recall of the U.S. ambassador to Santiago (and the suspension on economic and military aid) blamed on the lack of Chilean cooperation in U.S. investigations of the murder of Allende's ambassador to Washington, Letelier, closely resembles the big stick [given in English] pattern (which we though had been overcome).

This case brings into the open a conflict between the Justice Department--which attributed the recall of the ambassador "exclusively" to the lack of Chilean cooperation in the Letelier case--and the State Department, which, claiming human rights violations in Chile, wants to try the chief of the defunct secret police (DINA) [National Intelligence Department], who is considered to be the instigator on the crime. Even worse is the conflict between the official diplomatic corps and Carter's special advisory team for Latin American affairs. Our correspondent in Washington reported: "They [the special advisers] want Contreras' (retired general and chief of the DINA) head and are ready to do anything to obtain it." According to a State Department diplomat, THEY are the POLITICAL APPOINTEES [in English] of the State Department and the White House who, in conjunction with leftwing organizations "concerned" over Latin America, have selected the hardline regimes of the hemisphere as their main target.

They wholeheartedly support the question which our correspondent asked immediately: "How would Washington government react if a Latin American country decided to try a former CIA chief for crimes committed on this nation's territory by U.S. agents?" "Well implemented, Jimmy Carter's human rights policy could alleviate the sufferings of millions of human beings. Used as an instrument of obvious pressure it will constantly provoke negative reaction." Especially so, if it can be proved that all this showing off is aimed at diverting attention from Cuba whose institutionalized outrages the POLITICAL APPOINTEES [in English] do not wish to discuss within the framework of the OAS.

O ESTADO VIEWS DEBATE OVER REFORM PACKAGE

PY010050Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jun 78 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Constitutional Reforms"]

[Text] The nation finally knows what is coming--unfortunately: Release of the constitutional reform bill which the executive branch will present to Congress [actually submitted on 26 June] leaves no room for guessing. Although the reform bill can still be subject to minor changes before it is actually submitted to Congress, we can now tell what the intentions of the government are and what measures it wants to have approved by the representatives of the people to replace Institutional Act No 5. [AI-5]. These measures are intended to set up a supposedly legitimate structure to face the approaching crises, which nobody in his right mind can pretend not to see coming.

While Senator Petronio Portella was carrying out his "mission," the political and juridical conscience of the country was worrying about the possibility that the so-called "safeguards" to be introduced in the constitutional text would only institutionalize arbitrariness and they would become instruments of coercion more drastic than the AI-5 to be dropped. Essentially all the debate hinged on those "safeguards." The Brazilian Lawyers Association sustained that the state of siege was the most severe exceptional measure which could be accepted by the juridical conscience. Others, like Army Joint Staff Chief Gen Ariel Pacca da Fonseca, were afraid of the adoption of "demagogic reforms." And finally there were those who were opposed to any liberalizing measure which could in principle weaken the state, i.e., the executive branch. So we are devoting this commentary to those "safeguards," because they set the tone and the shape of the "big package," as the latest reforms are being referred to.

The problem of the "safeguards" is posed by the exceptional measures which are to be included in the new constitution. During the debates which preceded the preparation of the reforms bill, we came to believe that the government would establish differentiations among "emergency measures," "state of siege" and "state of emergency."

Unfortunately there is not much differentiation among these three measures aimed at insuring the security of the state because one single package of political and police punishments, defined in Paragraph 2 of Article 156, can be applied in all instances. What is differentiated is the kind of control which the legislative power will have over the executive. While in traditional constitutions (which did not include the "emergency measures" and the "state of emergency" such as presented in the package) the restriction of freedoms authorized by the "state of siege" was valid only when approved by Congress, the amendment takes away this guarantee: Exceptional measures will go into effect as soon as they are decided by that strange constitutional council, even though these restrictions of individual freedom may be as severe as those provided for in the "state of siege."

In sum, under the pretext of protecting the state, the executive denies the Congress any participation in any decisions aimed at restricting the freedoms of the nation, because the executive may never need to resort to the "state of siege" since everything will be taken care of by "emergency measures" or the "state of emergency." This is not a distorted or biased interpretation. The text of the draft amendment is very clear on this point: With regard to the "state of siege" the appropriate decree will be "submitted" to Congress (Paragraph 4 of the new Article 156), while in the case of "emergency measures" Congress will be "informed" (Paragraph 1 of the new Article 155), and with regard to the "state of emergency" the appropriate decree will be "reported" to Congress (Paragraph 3 of the new Article 158). In certain aspects the 1937 constitution was much better because even though it indicated that the "state of emergency" (equivalent to the state of "siege") did not require Congressional approval; it did specify that if Congress failed to approve the measures implemented during the state of emergency it could demand the "impeachment of the president." The fact that Congress did not operate during the new state [of Getulio Vargas] has nothing to do with the defense of individual rights should the "safeguards" demanded by President Geisel come into effect.

We must also take into account the view which the small group which created the "package" has of "state defense." They are not satisfied with the broadness of the instruments authorized by the traditional republican "state of siege"--instruments which have remained practically unchanged since 1967 when the constitution included the executive's power to use or temporarily occupy property belonging to autonomous agencies, public enterprises or mixed enterprises. They go further still by giving the executor of the "state of siege," the "emergency measures" or the "state of emergency" the right to intervene class or professional organization.

What was feared during preliminary discussions has come to life in the amendments which make up the "package," that is, arbitrariness becomes part of the constitution insofar as the Congress is denied any participation whatsoever and is merely informed or advised that subversive factors have forced the executive to suspend individual guarantees. Worse still is the fact that, through constant amendments of this draft bill, the executive constitutionally enlists the armed forces for the execution of tasks which fall within the jurisdiction of civilian police (Paragraph 8 of the new Article 156: "The decree declaring the state of siege may also transfer to military authorities such police powers as normally pertain to civilian authorities...") Everything that President Geisel said about the return to the professional status of the armed forces, and everything which has been said so far about not involving the armed forces in repressive tasks loses any meaning. Under the pretext of democracy, the oligarchy which rules us will make us victims of arbitrariness once more.

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BRAZIL

MDB SENATOR: FRONT BOTH LEGAL, LEGITIMATE

PY280230Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jun 78 FY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Speaking in the name of the leadership of the Brazilian Democratic Movement, Senator Francisco Leite Chaves [Parana State], stated that Minister Golbery de Couto e Silva had made a serious mistake when he stated, on delivering the proposal on political reforms to Senator Petronio Portella, that the National Redemocratization Front is illegal.

Leite Chaves said that the only factor he can find in Couto e Silva's favor is the fact that Couto e Silva himself declared that he was not an expert in this matter.

Leite Chaves stated that the National Redemocratization Front is both legal and legitimate, since pursuant to the law any party can nominate presidential candidates from inside or outside its ranks, either military or civilian.

He added that no party can be forced to nominate candidates only from within its ranks, noting that each party can nominate candidates who are not members of the party. He added that military officers are not restricted by political affiliation and, therefore, they can be nominated as candidates of any party.

Senator Eurico Rezende, leader of the National Renewal Alliance in the Senate, stated that the reasons outlined by Leite Chaves are not sufficient to prove the legality of the National Redemocratization Front, since Leite Chaves was merely referring to political parties.

Senator Leite Chaves concluded by stating that the opposition has every right to nominate either a civilian or a military candidate if it so pleases, as long as this candidate vows to implement the restoration of democratic rules pursuant to the party's platform.

REZENDE, BROSSARD DIFFER OVER FRONT'S LEGALITY

PY300300Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Jun 78 FY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Eurico Rezende, government leader in the Senate, has stated that the National Redemocratization Front--which will be installed tomorrow in Sao Paulo--is illegal because it violates Article 120 of the Statute of Political Parties.

Rezende noted that this article bans the formation of any political entity which has not previously met all legal requirements to function as a political party. Therefore, Rezende added, the front they want to create tomorrow in Sao Paulo will convert the city into a camp of illegality.

Rezende recalled that the first front created in the country was that created by Luis Carlos Prestes [secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party], who sought to introduce into our country foreign ideologies which are contrary to the values prevailing in the Western world. He charges that the National Redemocratization Front also has predatory purposes.

In his opinion, the objective of the front is to undermine the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] by seeking the support of ARENA members both in relation to the proposal on political reforms and the electoral college which elect the new president of the republic.

Senator Paulo Brossard, leader of the Brazilia Democratic Movement [MDB] in the Senate, took the floor to reject Rezende's remarks. Brossard stated that the constitution guarantees all Brazilians the freedom to meet and quoted Clause 27 of Article 153 of the Constitution, which provides that anyone can hold peaceful meetings, adding that government officials can interfere with these meetings only to maintain order. He added that the law will specify those cases in which it will be necessary to report to the government that a meeting will be held, as well as the designation of the meeting place.

Brossard expressed his surprise over Rezende's remarks terming as a camp of illegality a meeting which will be attended by prominent public servants such as Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the MDB; Senator Magalhaes Pinto, a prominent Brazilian figure; and Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro.

AIR MINISTER FAVORS END TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE

PY302214Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL in Portuguese 28 Jun 78 p 5 PY

[Speech by Air Minister Joelnir Campos de Araripe Macedo on greeting officers at Command and General Staff School in Brasilia on 27 June]

[Excerpts] The democratic calling of our people and the degree of civilization we have achieved does not permit us to live under an exceptional regime any longer than necessary to end the disorder and communist subversion unleashed under the Joao Goulart administration. Despite what a few naive people seem to believe, relaxation does not mean surrender. Nor is it an act of grace, because the nation is just getting back that to which it is entitled. The revolutionary government has relinquished the autocratic powers bestowed upon it by the institutional acts, even though these acts were always based on a basic principle of natural law which made them legitimate.

This is, officers, the proper dose. The reform is not excessive because we are not purely, simply returning to Jango's [Joao Goulart's] democracy, nor is it insufficient, because autocratic powers and restrictions to the state of law have been removed.

In today's world, in which terrorist attacks are considered appropriate to make political demands; in which communist-inspired revolutionary wars are being waged in the Third World and are focused on us; in which mankind is facing permanently the threat of self-destruction as a result of uncontrolled nuclear retaliatory action; to dream of full democracy (without adjectives, as some unrealistic people put it) in this world would be jumping like Alice into wonderland.

We must seek a feasible democracy which would guarantee the basic rights of man, and not pursue utopia. The armed forces, which support the revolutionary process initiated on 31 March 1964, have never sought to replace civilians in the government; instead, they want a strengthened, responsible civilian government which would not yield to demagogy, Marxist propaganda and communist subversion. Therefore, both the armed forces and civilians will walk together with their thinking and action aimed at achieving the greatness of the fatherland and the people's well-being.

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON CONSULATE INCIDENT IN PUERTO RICO

PY042153Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jul 78 PY

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is pleased with the happy end to events at the Chilean Consulate in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Col Roberto Soto, Foreign Ministry under secretary, stated that the (?provision) which allowed the freeing of Chilean Consul Ramon Gonzalez Ruiz was reported noon today by the American Embassy in Santiago.

Gen Enrique Valdez, Foreign Ministry deputy minister, mentioned the steps in the case which moved national and Latin American opinion. [begin Valdez recording] Well, yesterday we had reports which appeared in the press regarding our embassy. Our ambassador had been in touch with the State Department, (?according) to the reports we had. This morning we contacted our ambassador again, and he told us that the State Department was taking certain steps [words indistinct] in order to make things easier. We then agreed that that, if the State Department believed it necessary, the police should be authorized to enter the consulate to (?take action). [end recording]

General Valdez added that it was learned through telegraphic reports that the kidnaping had ended. However, the official report had not arrived at the Foreign Ministry by 1300. He indicated that Jose Miguel Barros, Chilean ambassador to the United States, had been constantly in touch with the State Department, while the Foreign Ministry did the same with the U.S. Embassy here.

[begin Valdez recording] [Words indistinct] the circumstances show a certain position regarding [words indistinct] of the United States, according to the statement made yesterday, but also against the Chilean Government [words indistinct] also includes support for the Chilean resistance. So it is obvious that they are after something. [end recording]

Despite the incident, General Valdez denied that any special measure would be taken regarding the Chilean Embassy in Washington.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN

PY032111Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Text] The return of U.S. Ambassador George Walter Landau to Chile confirms the existing normal relations between Chile and the United States and refutes those who alleged that there were other motives for his departure. Minister Secretary General of Government Rene Vidal made this statement today when he was asked about U.S. Ambassador Landau's departure for the United States, for consultative meetings.

General Vidal stated: I believe that the ambassador's return is within the context of what the Chilean Government has always proposed: that it has always been (?willing) to cooperate, within its capabilities, and within the limits of its sovereignty, regarding anything that dealt with the crime in Washington in September 1976 against Letelier. Furthermore, when asked by a journalist whether the Chilean Government has identified the persons responsible for spreading recent rumors and who the interior minister had identified as members of the Marxist party, General Vidal said that these persons have not been identified as yet, because otherwise legal proceedings would have been started against them. But he added that there is well-supported evidence that these rumors are spread by some well-known members of the former Christian Democratic Party and those Marxist members who continue to carry out clandestine activities.

He added: Once more I believe that the public must be warned about this campaign and that the only way to combat this sort of activity is by denouncing those who spread these rumors.

In this regard the minister secretary general of government stated that this wave of rumors has declined in the last few days and it is obvious that there is no possibility that they will succeed because they have reached such grotesque levels.

Regarding recent statements issued by relatives of alleged missing persons, General Vidal stated that they have no legal right to demand an answer, as they have done, because the interior minister did not allude to anyone in particular in his recent statement.

The minister secretary general of government stated that no relative has submitted details of (?specific situations) to help solve the case of any missing persons.

He noted that the government will not accept any violation of present laws dealing with maintenance of peace and public order. He added that in this regard there has been no change.

He finally added that the UN Human Rights Commission will arrive on the 12th, but he added that the date is still subject to confirmation.

ENVOY SAYS OAS ASSEMBLY BENEFICIAL FOR CHILE

PY032226Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jul 78 PY

[Text] The results of the OAS General Assembly meeting held in Washington, which closed 1 July, were positive for Chile. This was stated by Maria Eugenia Oyarzun, Chilean ambassador to the OAS. [passage indistinct]

The Chilean ambassador to the OAS stated that, regarding human rights, both the report of the General Assembly and the statements of the various delegates acknowledged the effort made by the Chilean Government in this regard.

Venezuelan Ambassador Jose Maria Machin sparked sharp debates by delivering long speeches dealing with domestic matters of other states. [passage indistinct]

Maria Eugenia Oyarzun stated that U.S. President Jimmy Carter caused one of the most provocative situations of the OAS General Assembly meeting with his inaugural speech. [passage indistinct]

In this regard, it suffices to recall that the last Harris poll carried out in the United States indicated that more than 70 percent of U.S. citizens were dissatisfied with President Carter's foreign policy, with 65 percent thinking that the government leaves a lot to be desired.

EL SIGLO CRITICIZES CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

PA041555Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Jun 78 p 4 PA

[Degruillo article "Frivolous Moralists"]

[Text] Incongruency can be more destructive than a true spirit of demolition, especially when an important scenario is involved. This is the case of the disorganized campaign in defense of human rights that has been unleashed in the international sphere without any concrete goal, without any apparent author, a sort of fireworks without any control which will burn whoever lights it together with all the friends around him and finally lands where it was least expected.

This is the case that we are witnessing in our America. At the rate it is going, Mr Carter's international policy, after having created that marvelous pandemonium in Africa, is making the Organization of American States totter despite its seemingly secure solidarity. The most recent incident with Chile over an obscure crime committed in the United States and whose outcome could benefit any government except the Chilean Government may produce a crisis of unforeseen dimensions. The same applies to the incidents concerning Argentina and Brazil. Unfortunately for the world and the future of freedom, things are not so simple as Mr Carter and some of his aides would like to think. It is very different to speak about human rights in strictly democratic terms to people who have had to suffer terrorism and anarchy for many years like many citizens of Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina, or to those who are forever under the threat of "gulag" like the Koreans, the people of Taiwan or Thailand, than to do so to Swedes, Englishmen or Americans. To the former, survival is the basic factor which necessarily imposes certain curtailment of some freedoms; to the latter, the violation of one of those rights is a transitory fault which must be corrected.

This incongruency is merely the result of the substitution of a global concept of the terms of justice and morals by a general plan of legalism without any perspective, which can lead us to the obscure place where Italian society is cornered, without any hope of finding a workable solution for the crude violence which it faces. It is also the result of the loss of a sense of proportion by a press which has labeled as "nasty" the Colombian elections, which are the only truly free, although disorganized, elections outside of the exclusive club of the wealthy northern countries which only enjoys faults and is bored by any positive aspect.

Solzhenitsyn tells us that it is terrible to live in a country where the law does not exist, as in Russia, but that it can be equally horrible to live in a society in which the law prevails over moral concepts, like what is happening in the West. Like we say in our coastal regions, these "frivolous" moralists need a little knowledge of history and of analysis.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEFENDS OAS MISSION

PA031200Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2125 GMT 2 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Jul (EFE)--Indalecio Llevano Aguirre, Colombian foreign affairs minister, today criticized the method by which the debates between Latin America and the United States had been moved to other centers where world affairs are decided, a situation which he believed had contributed to the weakening of the OAS. In statements made to the Caracol Network, Llevano Aguirre hoped that after the OAS General Assembly's recent meeting, the OAS will regain its importance as the center where problems between North and South can be discussed.

Lievano Aguirre feels that the recent OAS meeting was one of the most difficult in terms of recovering the tradition and spirit that the OAS requires as the proper center for deliberations, debates and discussions concerning exclusively hemispheric problems.

Before leaving for Brazil, Lievano Aguirre told Caracol Network how the Colombian delegation at the OAS General Assembly had insisted on protecting the organization's basic objectives, by trying to stop its problems from being taken to other organizations for discussion.

These problems should be discussed directly between the United States and the Latin Americans, without the intervention of other sectors, Lievano Aguirre pointed out.

EL ESPECTADOR DEEMS RELATIONS WITH PRC REALISTIC

PA031922Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Jun 78 p 2A PA

[Editorial: "Relations With China"]

[Text] We do not want to compete with the naivete of vanguard intellectuals and liberal congressmen who consider the most important of all Colombian problems to be that of establishing diplomatic relations with the Peking government. But we do think it is a gesture of elemental realism--and therefore, sensible and useful--to establish them, and we will praise the incoming administration of Turbay Ayala for this. Furthermore, we cannot fully understand why the present administration did not establish these relations.

The announcement was made by Turbay Ayala in Madrid, which makes sense. His host, King Juan Carlos, has just returned from a visit to China. It was sad for a Latin American democracy to witness that a monarch followed a serious foreign policy more in line with the times than that of our government leaders. Fortunately, Turbay Ayala has seen to the solution of this problem.

Unlike some writers, we do not speak of "Red China," or "communist China." We speak simply of China, the one that is recognized as a nation and has its capital in Peking. This is how the UN documents read and what has led the majority of the governments in a world of the most diverse ideologies to establish diplomatic relations with it and not with the phantom Taiwan government. The latter has carried out a phenomenal and very costly public relations campaign in Colombia. No politician or bureaucrat has failed to visit the island or to enjoy the fantastic courtesies of its leaders. At present, it is hard to say what attitude they will adopt in view of President Turbay's wise decision, but those relations had no logic or benefits for our country. We should establish relations with the true China, instead of the illegitimate dissident, at least so we will not appear ridiculous in the "assemblage" of nations.

Will Colombia derive great benefits from relations with China? We do not think so. We are not going to participate in the picturesque celebrations of fanatics just as we did not participate in those of the "dupes" [mamertos] when relations were resumed with the USSR, the European socialist countries, and our fraternal Cuba, even though we endorsed these relations. In fact, the cost of maintaining a diplomatic office in Peking will have as few returns as most of our Foreign Ministry's outlays. But at least it makes sense that, if there is going to be Colombian diplomatic representation, it should be in China and not in Formosa. Within the pluralistic context of our times, we should have relations with the chief powers and the most influential governments of other ideologies, and in the past 10 years, while there have been no miracles, we have done well.

A more cordial and direct understanding of our situation makes those powers and governments adopt a constructive position toward us. Relations with the Soviet Union have not been marred and have produced useful cooperation in the Urrea dam. With Cuba, the treaty on air and sea hijacking had immediate effects and, erasing a series of recent offenses, permitted the two nations, who have so many reasons to feel mutual respect and friendship, to understand each other again. European nations behind what was formerly called the Iron Curtain have offered us their sympathy, some discrete technological support and fruitful--although not prodigiously so--exchanges. The diversification of our foreign trade is a tool in the defense in our position in the world, a modest tool but one which has to be used. It would not do to lay it aside. That is why we supported the program of diplomatic expansion undertaken by President Lleras Restrepo, which met with the general understanding of Colombians, including the staunchest representatives of traditionalism.

A splendid market for our products? We do not believe so either. Just as there are reasons for a cordial establishment of diplomatic bonds; there are none for the Chinese to change their habits and complicate their lives to revive the extinguished coffee "bonanza" for our sake. Some countries have made good cotton sales to China, although nothing spectacular, so we should not expect this. But we are among those who applaud the realistic attitude of Turbay in this matter, because the true Chinese nation and state are those which are represented by Peking and not those of the Taiwan farce.

FINANCE MINISTER DENIES RUMORS OF DRASTIC PESO DEVALUATION

PA010201Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Finance Minister Alfonso Palacio Rudas today emphatically denied reports of a possible drastic devaluation of the Colombian peso.

Contradicting rumors to that effect, Palacio Rudas said the U.S. dollar price trend will continue the same. This means, he explained, that the peso will continue its gradual devaluation of from 3 to 4 cents weekly.

The peso devaluation from June 1977 to June 1978 averaged 6.2 percent, which is considered normal taking into account the fact that its devaluation for the previous year averaged only 5 percent.

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF CURFEW, DRY LAW IN RIONACHA

PA031546Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Governor Lola de la Cruz de Pastrana has announced that the curfew and dry law will be lifted this week. These measures were implemented last week in the wake of incidents sparked by common criminals who killed three members of the armed forces and two civilians in the capital of Guajira.

The governor told newsmen yesterday that the situation has greatly improved, but that she will not hesitate to impose the law in a region where criminal gangs have operated for over 10 years.

Meanwhile, a judge has continued investigations to uncover the identities of the persons involved in the most recent incidents in this city. Orlando Redondo, who was put in charge of the investigation by the criminal court, will report soon on his findings to the ministers of Government and Justice.

NOGUES FINDS OAS RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE

PY041709Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Jul 78 p 12 PY

[Excerpts] Upon returning to our capital yesterday, Foreign Minister Alberto Noguez said: "The resolution is acceptable, even though we disagree on some points with the Human Rights Commission." He was referring to the OAS General Assembly resolution regarding the human rights situation in Paraguay.

Noguez returned at 1230 yesterday on a Varig flight from Washington, where he attended the annual OAS General Assembly.

Referring to the OAS General Assembly, Noguez stated: "In general terms it developed as you may have been informed by the daily press, and as to its resolution regarding Paraguay, I want to tell you that we think it is acceptable, although we disagree with some of the conclusions arrived at by the Human Rights Commission. The resolution does not go beyond requesting that the Paraguayan Government adopt some measures which the commission deems advisable and, at the same time, it asks the Paraguayan Government to accept an onsite visit by the commission."

Noguez said that there is nothing new to that, "since at the appropriate time the Paraguayan Government gave its approval of the commission's visit at a convenient time, for which the exact dates only need to be set."

LIBERAL DEPUTY CALLS FOR INFORMATION ON PRISONERS

PY302301Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Jun 78 p 14 PY

[Excerpt] In her speech in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, [Radical Liberal Party] Deputy Ligia Prieto de Centurion indicated that "our country is one of those which are charged with violating human rights and that through absolutely reliable sources it was learned that there are citizens who are at the disposal of the executive branch at the Emboscada Prison and in police precincts, charged with political crimes for which they are not subject to the common courts. As concrete examples, we cite Virgilio Bareiro, Severo Severo Acosta and Mrs Idalina de Acosta, all three of them with almost 15 years in prison."

Deputy Prieto de Centurion asked how many citizens are imprisoned at Emboscada Prison or in police precincts in the capital, what the charges against them are and for how long have some been missing and how long have the others been imprisoned.

Justo Pastor Benitez [of the Radical Liberal Party] also pointed out the need to hold public debates on human rights aimed at clearing up the reasons for our country being accused.

BRIEFS

POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASED--Pablo Cabaza Olmedo, former president of the Alon Liberal Club and member of the Radical Liberal Party, who was arrested on 19 April, was set free and went back to Argentina. He had come from that country the day he was arrested in order to obtain a passport to travel to Europe for health reasons. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Jul 78 p 15 PY]

GOVERNMENT TO REORGANIZE EDUCATION MINISTRY

PA011325Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 1 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 30 Jun (EFE)--The Peruvian military government has decided to reorganize the Education Ministry and the teachers subordinate to it in order to "correct" the situation caused by the teachers strike.

The public school teachers have been on strike since 8 May demanding higher salaries. A public school teacher currently earns approximately \$80 per month for a basic workday of 5 hours.

A decree published today in the official newspaper "EL PERUANO" authorizes the Education Ministry to create or eliminate positions and "to fire teachers without administrative process."

The local newspapers note that the teachers' actions have "political and subversive motives" and represent a threat to the students' completion of the school year. The teachers are also accused of being "intransigent," of refusing to meet with education authorities and of intimidating those teachers who do want to work.

The leftist-leaning independent magazines support the teachers strike, noting that it is "fair." They demand the resignation of Education Minister Gen Otto Elespuru. In an analysis of the situation, the leftist magazine "EQUIS" today notes that the public school students have not had even 1 week of normal classes and that the school year is already half over.

The magazine blames the education minister for not anticipating the strike in spite of the fact that it was announced in advance.

It also points out the need for a "rational discussion" between the Education Ministry and the teachers "without authoritarianism on the part of the ministry and without demagoguery on the part of the Single Union of Education Workers."

According to the magazine, the strike affects more than 70 percent of the public schools. "EQUIS" concludes that only a dialog can lead to a negotiated solution to the teachers strike.

TEACHERS STRIKE CONTINUES: DEMONSTRATORS, POLICE CLASH

PA042332Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2222 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 4 Jul (LATIN)--According to reliable information received from this capital, the police used tear gas bombs and water cannons today to disperse a demonstration in support of a national teachers strike currently being held in Cuzco, Peru's third most important city. Several skirmishes were reported and dozens of persons were arrested while the former Inca capital, one of Peru's major tourist attractions, remained paralyzed by a 24-hour solidarity strike.

According to the Single Union of Education Workers, the teachers' principal organization, at least 10 teachers have been arrested in several cities since the strike in demand of better salaries began 2 months ago. Two other teachers have died.

Last week, the government halted the negotiations claiming that it cannot afford to pay the salary increases demanded. It has been estimated that the strike is affecting 80 percent of the country's public schools. The reports add that while the clash between the demonstrators and the police was taking place in downtown Cuzco, 20 teachers continued a hunger strike begun 2 weeks ago at the local university complex.

TORRIJOS WILLING TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA

PA041527Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos told the press that 1 hour after Guatemala wishes it, we will resume diplomatic relations with that fraternal nation. Yesterday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Panamanian Government is pleased with the Guatemalan Government's intentions, but that it is up to that country to take the first steps to restore the always cordial relations between the two nations which were broken unilaterally by Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud in May of 1977.

PANAMA OBJECTS TO NORTH SEA MARITIME AGREEMENT

PA022353Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jun 78 pp 1, 43 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Government has issued a statement objecting to an agreement signed by maritime authorities of the North Sea area (Belgium, Denmark, France, FRG, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom). The agreement will go into effect on 1 July of this year.

The "memorandum of agreement among some maritime authorities on the maintenance of standards for merchant ships," signed in the Hague on 2 March 1978, represents, in Panama's opinion, a restriction of rights granted to states by public international law regarding the internal management of ships sailing under their flag, inasmuch as the states which have signed the agreement assume the right to stop any ship sailing in their territorial waters under the pretext of conducting inspections or investigations to certify that health and security measures established in international agreements are being complied with.

In the statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry to the governments of the countries which have signed the agreement and submitted at the conference of the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization currently being held in London, our country considers the measures that will go into effect on 1 July as unnecessary. Panama feels that it is already seriously handling matters related to its merchant marine, feasible prevention of sea contamination, and in general, all accidents caused by negligence in compliance with the security standards of existing international agreements.

For this reason, as the statement declares, "Panama cannot but express its great concern and disagreement regarding the measures that the countries which have signed the memorandum are going to take. Panama also wants to make clear its request that Panamanian authorities or representatives abroad should be notified of any action to be taken which could have an adverse or negative effect on our interests and ships sailing under our flag."

Regarding the memorandum of agreement among some maritime authorities on the maintenance of standards for merchant ships, which will go into effect on 1 July this year, the Republic of Panama, in reaffirming its adherence to international agreements, declares, in principle, its conformity with the intentions of the maritime authorities that have signed the agreement, since it shares with them the same interest to protect human life and the cargo at sea, by maintaining adequate standards for health and security in merchant ships sailing under its flag.

Regardless of what has been said in an expression of genuine concern over what could occur in the near future, the Republic of Panama retains the right to point out that in its opinion, the obvious ambiguity of the memorandum of agreement makes it susceptible to be interpreted too broadly and opens the possibility of subjective actions on the part of officials or states conducting inspections referred to in Section 3 of the agreement.

The Republic of Panama, signatory to many international agreements on this subject, considers that inspection measures for merchant ships are beneficial, provided, as it is clearly established in multilateral agreements expressly signed by Panama, such measures are taken in exercise of jurisdiction of states over their territorial waters, but never to the detriment of state sovereignty, according to norms governing public international law of ships sailing under their flag. Any alleged deficiency should be objectively founded and responsibly presented by trustworthy sources. A charge against a Panamanian ship cannot be based on individual or personal estimate; if such a case occurred, the maritime traffic and international commerce of a country with a merchant marine would be unjustly and illegally affected by frequent and unjustified detention of its ships.

In more specific terms, the Republic of Panama definitely considers unnecessary the measures that will go into effect beginning 1 July this year, because in its existing laws, our country has already taken similar measures for ships sailing under our flag, mainly in compliance with international agreements signed by Panama, such as the international convention to prevent sea contamination with hydrocarbons and the agreement on civil responsibility for damages caused by the contamination of sea waters by hydrocarbons.

PDP CONDEMNS CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS

PA010208Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 30 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The People's Party (PDP) (Panamanian pro-Soviet communist party) "strongly condemned" the leaders of the PRC's Communist Party for "rejecting the authority of Marxism-Leninism" and for its "divisionist activities."

The latest issue of the party's newspaper, "UNIDAD", carries a long communique harshly attacking the PRC.

The document charges that "it so happens that just as the Peking leaders are refusing to normalize its relations with the socialist nations, particularly the USSR, they are carrying out all types of negotiations and signing trade and military agreements with the imperialist nations."

The Panamanian communists, in conjunction with their attack on the PRC, reiterate their allegiance to the Moscow line.

"Our party," the document states, "considers that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's political line and the Soviet foreign policy today headed by its distinguished leader, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, are correct and appropriate."

The document concludes with an appeal to the Chinese people to "quickly correct the mistaken course" of their leaders.

MATUTINO COLUMNIST LAUDS REPUBLICAN PARTY

PA030013Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Jul 78 p 6A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "Republican Opposition"]

[Text] In the context of the real opposition to the regime which I analyzed in a previous column, the political parties emerge as fundamental pillars of ideological leadership and guidance for public opinion and proper spokesmen of it. These legal organizations which are necessarily institutionalized in every system of government that is really democratic are the historical instruments known and recognized as the only ones capable of properly representing the political, social and economic views of the citizens of a country as a means of governing.

As a positive sign, the people's identification with the existence of political parties has become well known, because, with full historic awareness, public opinion understands and reiterates after many years of political vacuum that it is in those organizations that the basis of full, active and dynamic democracy really lies.

The Republican Party continues to be one of those political organizations that became strong and positive in their national activities. It comprises a large number of experienced politicians who conducted their activities of yesteryear with honesty and patriotism. Every party has citizens with solid professional training who in the performance of their private activities have been successful because of their character and devotion; there are citizens who couple national concerns with a lofty democratic foundation and, on many occasions, capital for the welfare of many citizens and national progress.

There are two big parties in our midst: the Panamenist Party and the Liberal Party; but this does not preclude recognition of the fact that the Republican Party has remained vigilant and continues to analyze national problems. Therefore, slowly but surely it has been increasing its membership in all social strata, to the extent that its following has grown enormously, making it the third major political force in the country.

In addition to what has been said about the Republican Party, it is only fair also to recognize the assurance, balance, and intelligence of each and every one of its pronouncements regarding the grave national problems which have occurred in the last year and this year. This has been possible because the Republican Party counts on the experience of seasoned politicians to whom some people are looking today for common sense and the profound knowledge of our economic and social reality that those who analyze our experience display. Add to that the participation of elements cognizant of the underlying anxieties, aspirations and ambitions of the mass of the people and executives who have known how to manage successfully capital investments in reaching productive goals.

From the mixture of the aforementioned qualities emerges a political group that should continue to be viewed calmly and objectively because at any time, today as before, it can serve as an adequate link or catalytic agent to promote a climate of national understanding in the midst of those grave contradictions, struggles and confrontations that are growing more and more each day among us at the vigorous rate that the opposition to the incumbent regime moves.

BRIEFS

NEW DIGEDECOR DIRECTOR--Rigoberto Paredes has been appointed new director of the General Directorate for Community Development [DIGEDECOR] in Panama. He replaces Maj Domingo Calaghan. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

ECHEVERRIA WARNS FORMER SOLDIERS AGAINST LEFTISTS

PA032129Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria charged this morning that leftist elements who are acting as agitators infiltrated the demonstrations that have been staged by former military men. The official presented a photograph published last week by the newspaper LA REPUBLICA on its front page and noted that only one of the four persons appearing in the foreground was a public force officer. One never belonged to this force, another resigned 4 years ago and the fourth is a well-known communist agitator of the United People's Party, just as Echeverria has stated. The minister appealed to former military men acting in good faith not to let themselves be used for the purpose of creating conflicts and disturbances.

Minister Echeverria noted that, although the public security institution has issued the necessary resolutions so that former military men could receive their pensions, only 249 of the 1,596 military men entitled to this right have correctly presented their applications. The minister said that the state can pay pensions only to those former military men who present their documents and noted that at this moment 1,347 such documents are yet to be presented. We are doing everything possible to speed up payments, the minister said, but claims have been presented in an incomplete manner by former military men.

Minister Echeverria also stated this morning that he has met on several occasions with National Liberation Party Deputy Edgar Arayo to discuss matters related to the payment of pensions for persons who were in the military under the past administration.

The minister said that he is scheduled to meet with former military men today and that he will advise them to seek good counsel so that those who have not presented their documents--most of them--will be able to do so.

Meanwhile, former military men are preparing to stage a demonstration across from the Legislative Assembly building at 1400. They have called for a peaceful demonstration.

GUATEMALA

HOME OF FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STRAFED

PA031412Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] No arrests have been made yet in connection with the strafing of Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia's home over the weekend in Guatemala City. Unidentified persons shot at his home from a passing car and were quickly lost in nearby streets. The security guard of Colonel Peralta Azurdia, who is a former chief of government and presidential candidate, returned the fire. Peralta was in his home, meeting with a group of friends and party followers.

This is the second such attack against his home in the past few months. Peralta Azurdia was a presidential candidate in the past elections and claims that there were serious irregularities in them. He has filed a charge of unconstitutionality against the election returns. The charge is currently being investigated by 12 magistrates.

NEW POLICY ON BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS ANNOUNCED

PA032134Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1854 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--The negotiations between Great Britain and Guatemala on the future of the century-old dispute over Belize will be begun as if there had been no previous talks. Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer announced this today during the first news conference held by President Gen Gernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and his cabinet.

Villagran Kramer said that informal talks were held in the United States 10 days ago between Guatemalan and British delegates to "begin a new dialog that will bring about a peaceful and negotiated solution." He stressed that "everything must be begun under a new policy." He added that the doctrine of self-determination of peoples must be understood as the ability and right of all peoples of the world to decide their future.

The vice president indicated that part of the new negotiation formulas is to obtain the participation of regions interested in the solution of the old dispute. To this effect, he announced that informal talks will be begun with Belize and the Caribbean and Central American regions.

As the site of the first meeting that will begin the new phase of negotiations, Guatemala has proposed the island of Barbados. Guatemala is waiting for the British and Barbadian governments to accept its proposal.

Villagran Kramer said that the second meeting will be held in Central America. He stressed that the Guatemalan and Belizean people have the right to be informed about the negotiations and to make their own decision.

Prompt Agreement Denied

PA041807Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1412 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Jul (LATIN)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez has said here that Guatemala has not agreed to the prompt signing of an agreement granting Belize independence and that statements to that effect attributed to Ambassador Eduardo Castillo Arriola are false.

According to news reports from Washington, Guatemala is willing to sign an agreement to give Belize independence at a coming meeting to be held in Barbados.

Minister Castillo Valdez emphasized the statements made yesterday by Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer and of the president himself in his inaugural speech in which he said that Guatemala was open to dialog to obtain a prompt and honorable agreement that takes into account Guatemala's rights and the aspirations of the Belizean people. In any case, Castillo said, according to the policy of self-determination of peoples, any agreement reached must be approved or rejected by the Guatemalan people.

HONDURAS

CUBAN TRADE MISSION NEGOTIATES CEMENT CONTRACT

PA031424Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A Cuban trade mission arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday. Honduras and Cuba have broken the ice and begun discussing trade. As a result, Cuba may play the role of savior in the serious Honduran cement crisis.

There is a possibility trade relations will be strengthened. Over 17 years of stagnant economic relations between Honduras and Cuba were ended yesterday when a Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry negotiating commission arrived. The delegation is presided over by Michael Vasquez, director for trade with Latin America. He is accompanied by Pedro Munoz of the same office and Carlos Rodriguez Benitez, chairman of Cubaexport.

The Cubans arrived at Toncontin International Airport at 1630 local time and were met by Honduran Vice Minister of Economy for Industrial Affairs Miguel (Cebendeck) and the director of diplomatic protocol, Orlando Carcamo.

Vasquez said that the primary objective of his visit to Tegucigalpa was to conduct negotiations with the Honduran Government in connection with a possible sale of cement to his country. He did not specify amounts, saying that in the next few days an agreement which will establish the sales amount may be concluded between the two countries. He did reveal that a series of exchanges of trade information had been underway for some time.

Details of Agreement

PA041821Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1529 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Government decided at noon today, Tuesday, to buy half a million sacks of cement from Cuba. Negotiations were carried out in Tegucigalpa between members of the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry, Cubaexport and Honduran technical and economic officials.

Honduran Economy Minister Benjamin Villanueva said that a satisfactory agreement was reached on prices, quality, quantity and delivery. Cuba will deliver 110,000 sacks of cement monthly to Puerto Cortes, on the Atlantic Coast of Honduras, in August, September, October, November and possibly also December.

Michael Vasquez, Cuban foreign trade director for Latin America, expresses satisfaction over the negotiations with the Honduran Government, adding that he hoped that they will open the doors for firm trade between the two nations.

Cuba has shown much interest in Honduran products, especially cedar for use in the construction of cigar boxes.

PEASANT LEADER WARNS OF VIOLENCE IN RURAL AREAS

PA010250Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2223 GMT 30 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Reyes Rodriguez Arevalo, president of the Honduran Peasants National Association (ANACH), today warned that an outbreak of violence and disorder could occur in Honduran rural areas very soon if the government does not stop the numerous violations of human rights. Rodriguez Arevalo based his forecast on recent bloody incidents in which at least four persons were killed in land disputes.

The peasant leader also said that if the landowners continue their violent attacks on peasants there will be an outbreak of "fighting between the two sectors."

He said that more than 1,000 peasants have been arrested and others have been cruelly tortured because they want to own a plot of land.

Reyes Rodriguez added that the military government must intervene soon in behalf of social peace in the agricultural sector. He noted that for this purpose his organization is trying to meet with chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro.

From another quarter, Victor Inocencio Peralta, assistant secretary of the National Union of Peasants (UNC), blamed the ANACH president for the eviction of nine peasant families from their land because they recently withdrew from ANACH.

FORMER INTERPOL CHIEF REITERATES DRUG CHARGES

PA032352Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1851 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--From the loneliness of a narrow cell in an army battalion garrison, former Honduran Interpol chief Lt Juan Angel Barahona has made new accusations against high-ranking armed forces officers.

Barahona was imprisoned 3 months ago when he made sensational statements about officers being involved in drug trafficking and the kidnaping and murder of a wealthy couple in this capital.

The new statements by the former Interpol chief were published here today, Monday, by LA TRIBUNA under the byline of photojournalist Eduardo Benitez, who took advantage of a party at the 1st Infantry Battalion in Tegucigalpa to fool the vigilance system and reach the cell. Barahona told the photographer that after a military commission made a report which denies the participation of the military in drug trafficking and the murder of Mario and Mary Ferrari more than 6 months ago, the "real culprits are free."

Barahona, who complained of the subhuman conditions of his imprisonment in a narrow 2-meter-wide cell and without giving any names, accused an army officer of having seized a yacht owned by Mafia chief Ramon Matta, who is being charged with complicity in the kidnaping and murder of the Ferrari couple. The yacht, according to Barahona, was used by its owner to smuggle drugs from Honduras to other nations in the continent.

He also accused the army of a flagrant violation of human rights because it refuses to allow him to contract the services of a lawyer to defend himself and to strive for his release. He compared his situation with that of Nicaraguan Sandinist guerrilla German Pomares--released last Friday--who, according to Barahona, was allowed to jog and sun himself.

According to LA TRIBUNA's newsman, Barahona, who describes as "barbaric" the methods used against him in prison, looks haggard, pale and has obviously lost weight. The prisoner did not deny or affirm that he was being constantly tortured, as is generally believed, but he said that his meals are served at deliberately irregular hours and that this is abnormal and depressive.

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH SOMOZA

PA041958Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier yesterday paid an unannounced visit to Nicaragua. Shortly after his arrival in Managua, he briefly met with his Nicaraguan colleague, Julio Quintana, and later went to Montelimar to meet with President Somoza.

Somoza and Fournier discussed matters of common interest regarding the Atlantic coast, including the demarcation of marine and submarine borders.

Prior to his departure for Montelimar, the Costa Rican foreign minister held a brief meeting with reporters. Asked about plans for the expropriation of Somoza's El Murcielago farm in Costa Rica, Calderon Fournier said the case was in the hands of the minister of agriculture. If the expropriation should be decreed, it will be done according to Costa Rican law and at a just price, the foreign minister said.

STUDENTS LEAVE CLASSES; DEMONSTRATIONS DISPERSED

PA040318Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Jul (AFP)--Students of Nicaraguan secondary and teachers schools today collectively left classes demanding that the government fulfill a seven-point platform.

The students' demands to the government include the release of political prisoners, the solution of agrarian conflicts and the reopening of a radio station closed by the government for broadcasting reports described as exaggerated.

Police used tear gas to break up demonstrations in the cities of Managua, Leon, Condega, Boaco, Matagalpa and Granada, located west, north and east of the capital.

LATIN: POLITICAL TENSION SEEN INCREASING

PA032235Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2001 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Jul (LATIN)--Political tension is increasing here only 2 days before the return of the "group of 12," which is composed of businessmen, politicians and intellectuals who since October have maintained from abroad a strong campaign against the Anastasio Somoza regime.

The welcome and solidarity committee is planning rallies at Las Mercedes Airport and the two locations the group will visit immediately after their arrival: the Indian neighborhood of Monimbo in Masaya (26 km south of Managua) and the grave of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro in Managua.

A large number of public schools are occupied by students demanding the release of Sandinist political prisoners. Several hundred workers of Managua municipality who were dismissed last week for participating in an illegal strike are occupying the Santa Ana church in northwest Managua.

Meanwhile, 22 newsmen, broadcasters, radio workers, students and workers have been on a hunger strike during the past 2 weeks in the headquarters of the Managua Red Cross. They are demanding the reopening of the MI Preferida radio station.

Although the committee for the release of political prisoners, composed of leftwing student and labor organizations, has refused to join the committee of solidarity with the "group of 12," arguing that a "minimum political plan" is necessary, it has called for a strike on Wednesday, the day the opposition group is scheduled to arrive in Managua.

CASTRO'S REMARKS AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

FLO31500Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 1 Jul 78 FL

[President Fidel Castro's remarks at National People's Government Assembly session on morning of 30 June 1978 at Karl Marx Theater in Havana--recorded]

[Text] With that 15-percent increase in the demand [for electricity] from May to May [Castro is apparently referring to previous remarks by a delegate], the blackouts will never end, regardless of the number of powerplants we build. The blackout is another problem that is always raised. I do not know to what degree the annoyance of the blackout is felt, but the charges for electricity seem to be higher. It could also be that kind of phenomenon, tied to all those things which I cannot understand--late payments, the IBM machines and all those things. That is the way people feel. If power is not provided for a number of days every month, when the time comes to pay--even if it is the correct amount or below what it should be--the electricity bill seems to be higher, despite the fact that Cuba is the country with the most economical electricity service in the world; for the charge for electricity today is half of what was being paid prior to the revolution, that is, what one pays for electricity per kilowatt hour. Moreover, it is inexpensive, so inexpensive that I have no idea to what degree we are wasting electricity because it is so inexpensive. That is why the mere fact that electricity seems to be expensive is a negative symptom, doubtlessly negative. To produce electricity is expensive, and the country will someday be forced to face up to the problem of electricity service responsibly and courageously. The charge is half of what capitalism collected.

But there is another factor: Petroleum, which is the basic element for electricity, now is five or six times more expensive. The electricity installations, the equipment that generates electricity, now is three times more expensive than in the days of capitalism. We have petroleum that is six times more expensive, installations three times more expensive and the electricity service is charged half of what capitalism charged. These are the realities. We have no idea how much electricity we are wasting. This cannot be examined in isolation.

Of the complaints you have, many of them have something to do with the service provided, that is, expanding service. I know what this is all about. I myself have been asked in many places to supply electricity service. The one who lives near a road, the one who lives near a railroad track--all have asked me for it. But I have been forced to explain hundreds of times that it is impossible. There is something that cannot be overlooked: The number of new consumers is planned every year in accordance with available transformers, available powerlines resources at hand and the potential for the service. This figure is somewhere near 20,000 or 21,000 new consumers. The new housing alone takes that much. That is one of the problems that the delegates surely encounter in all districts--demand for additional service. Now, additional service causes more blackouts. It is impossible to give in to the demands for new service. Everybody wants it because many people want to solve in 1, 2 or 3 years the darkness that has been accumulated over thousands of years.

We have the problem of electric household appliances. In 1977 there were 75,000 new refrigerators, 160,000 new television sets, 74,600 washing machines, 280,200 flatirons--each flatiron uses 1 kilowatt when it is plugged in; just to plug in 280,000 flatirons 1 day at the same time is equivalent to power output of 3 units of 100,000 kilowatts--not that many electric electric fans, 42,000 record players, 48,000 mixers, 33,200 razors. There were a total of 715,819 new electric household appliances, which explains the increase in the use of electricity, the 15-percent increase.

This was discussed a few days ago by the Council of Ministers. You have not yet explained the phenomenon of why the use of electricity grew by 15 percent between May 1977 and May 1978. This is an impressive figure and you have not explained why. This must be explained somehow. Whether it is caused by the electric household appliances or what part is due to industrial use, or what part is due to housing--this has to be explained.

Despite everything, industries consume the major part of the country's energy. Residential use is responsible for the peak hour demand, the time for maximum power demand, the well-known peak hour. That problem has to be explained in order to find the causes. The delegates have to explain whatever becomes necessary. We will have to face up not only to explanations but also to possible solutions.

I believe it is a bad thing to have the people think they are being overcharged, or for the collection method to irritate the people. That is why I ask whether the computers are making mistakes or what has to be done when there is a mistake in collection method. What kind of collection method can be devised so that no one feels that he is being overcharged or deceived? You are responsible for part of the problem which is very important, the part dealing with explaining all those difficulties.

The delegates also have another important obligation. Pondering over all the things I heard here yesterday, I realized the problems were not limited to a specific district. No one brought here just a problem of his area; the problems brought were the problems of the delegates. When explaining their problems here, the delegates had to talk about concrete problems, not because they brought their area problem here, but simply because they had to mention it to explain their relations with the constituents. However, I was troubled by all those explanations and different types of problems, some of which we are trying to clear up now. I believe that a very serious effort must be made now and in future years to educate the constituents. But, in addition, in order to educate the constituents, there must be a truly thorough process of educating the delegates because, if they do not have the needed information--to call it something if I may--knowledge, education on basic problems of the country, it will be impossible to educate the constituents. Yesterday I was under the impression that we, all of you, we ourselves, all of us, are far from well educated on basic problems of the country's economy, above all, of the country's economy.

In the first place, the revolution's leadership itself is to be blamed for our lack of a good education on the basic problems of the economy. We are responsible. I do not know who should be blamed for our not having a good education on that. Let us blame capitalism for that; it never educated anyone.

These problems have been discussed. They were discussed during the congress. We discussed the mistakes we have made. We discussed subjectivism and idealism. We were on the brink of calling in the currency. We almost did it. Those are historic leaps, historic illusions. It is something characteristic of almost all revolutions and almost all revolutionaries at certain points in time. We wanted to build communism before building socialism. We are now facing the reality of first building socialism in accordance with all laws and principles by which socialism is built. The time will come when we will discuss the economic plans here in greater depth. All that rosary of calamities, complaints--the lack of lumber, the lack of this or that, the lack of materials, the lack of steel and the lack of elements to repair houses, tubing to stop leaks, lead and plumbers and all those things--has an economic explanation and that economic explanation is underdevelopment.

If there is one thing that cannot be blamed on the revolution, it is the lack of desire to solve all those problems. Perhaps, one of the mistakes of the revolution is to want to solve more problems than it can. If you abruptly decide to give electrical service to everybody in the country, to the 3 million persons who do not yet have electricity, and build the lines needed to give service to all of them, the result would be that the blackouts would increase 20 times and the problems 25 times. Perhaps one of the less well-chosen directions followed by the revolution in one aspect has been to want to solve more problems than can be solved by an underdeveloped country, when the fundamental problem of the country is development and investments aimed at developing the economy. Without true development, the rosary of calamities, which is called poverty, far from being solved, is multiplied.

It would have to be a great idealism--an incredible idealism--to imagine that the essential objective--I am not talking about subjective ones--problems can be solved without development. [applause] We must distinguish between two things: problems that have an objective base and those with a subjective one. This must be done. This must be known by all constituents and all delegates. One cannot be confused with the other. If it is a matter of sanitary conditions in a restaurant, or the public being mistreated, or some effort that is not made, of which we have heard many here--I am sorry that the papers I had here yesterday have been removed; I had made notes about all of them--these are eminently subjective problems. These are problems which the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, the assemblies, the delegates, the administration have to work hard at and struggle to overcome them. These must not be confused with objective problems, because objective problems can be solved only with development.

Every year we have to face up to the solution of everything needed by the country with the resources we have, problems such as foreign currency, agreed currency, everything, each ton of products required everywhere, from hospital medicines to school textbooks. How many books are needed for the student masses, how many square meters of clothing material per capita, how much lumber, how much steel, how much of other materials, how many grams of petroleum, how many investments, how much cement, what can be consumed, what can be exported, by how much does sugar production have to increase, and so forth--these are the agonies that the leaders of the revolution, the comrades of the council, the comrades of the government have to face every year. So we know about many of your problems. I am referring to the objective problems, not the subjective ones. Other problems are the resources we lack.

Yesterday, at times, I had the impression that there was some confusion in these problems when the delegates talked about districts and constituency. That is why I asked that some examples be cited. Then I noticed there was confusion between the organizations and the enterprises of the central administration, as in the case of the electricity, and enterprises of municipal administration or enterprises of provincial administration. It seemed to me that the delegate's mind is motivated by his relations with the constituency. His relations with the municipal assembly were mentioned because the delegate also represents the constituency in that municipal assembly, which is sovereign and which has under its jurisdiction--as correctly pointed out by Comrade Sonia--many of those enterprises and services where deficiencies were noted. That same assembly designates the province's delegates, so the delegate is much more than someone who has to respond to the electorate; he is a person who has the power and authority to intervene before the assembly, before the executive body, before everyone to begin solving some of these problems. One of the good things of the people's government is that it has transferred to the jurisdiction of local organs almost all basic services. Moreover, if we look around, in which place in Latin America--there are very few in the world--have the local organs of people's government been assigned so much power and so many things put under their control

Havana may be an exception in this regard because it is a big city, divided into municipalities, and water, transportation and other services cannot be turned over to each municipality. It is impossible. That is why they are under the control of the province, that is, the city. I believe there are differences of an objective type between Havana's problems and those of the rest of the country. It would be unjust not to acknowledge this reality.

On the other hand, it is absolutely impossible not to appreciate the merits of a delegate. I believe a delegate is a hero. He has to work 8 hours and then he has to listen to the constituents. He has to conduct activities, attend assembly meetings, write reports. We know there are many problems. Someone said here that people see him at lunchtime, at dinnertime, when he is getting ready for bed. He is not left alone; he is not even allowed to rest. I was thinking that we should find out what percentage of delegates, above all in the Havana District, dies of high blood pressure or heart failure. It is possible to underestimate the effort, the spirit of sacrifice of the delegates.

Besides, under our system of elections, in which the citizens themselves absolutely freely nominate and elect the candidates, without a doubt in our country the best citizen in each district is nominated and elected. We have seen how the elections are conducted in Havana itself. Six or seven primaries are conducted and then two candidates are left and, from those two, the people select the better, between those two out of the six or seven they freely and spontaneously proposed. I have no doubt that the most obliging, hardest working, most enthusiastic individual is the one who is elected. I have no doubt. They have selected the best.

Now, if the delegates do not have sufficiently clear and profound information and if the electorate does not have it, life becomes impossible for the delegate. Moreover, that illustrious voter could imagine asking for an impossibility, or could imagine any crazy idea, and ask for something impossible or absurd. Would that be the case with a well-educated electorate? No, they would not do that; they would understand. I would say that to some degree our population has been acquiring political sophistication, but not yet economic sophistication. They have not yet acquired sophistication about the essential problems of a country under concrete conditions.

It is evident that, in order to educate that electorate, the delegates must have information. It must be said that yesterday it appeared to me that the idea of planning did not even exist, or the need for planning was not being taken into consideration. It is a fact that nothing can be done just like that. We have made many mistakes because we attempted to do that, quickly, without research, without sufficient study. Sometimes there have been cases of an industry poorly located, or a school poorly located, or an installation poorly located, without considering the ground, without considering geological studies, without considering views on planning, without considering the future or statistical predictions, or the city's possibilities of development. Many mistakes have also been made in trying to correct mistakes.

There is another thing: Among the things requested were more child care centers, more polyclinics, more things, more hospitals. This is correct, but there must be planning. For example, some 80 child care centers are being built every year, and when there is a plan to build 80 centers annually, social and economic needs in certain areas of the country have to be considered. The construction of another 20 or 30 or 100 more centers cannot be improvised, no matter how much the constituents ask for it. It is necessary to plan the number of dwellings built annually, where and why. Of course, we have to try to increase the number built annually to solve the housing problem. We have to try to increase the number of schools and hospitals. That cannot be improvised. We have to plan the kilometers of highways, roads, railroad tracks. There is no other way to do it.

I say this in light of the example that was cited: that a beltway was needed. You tell me if out of the clear blue sky one can improvise 200 beltways throughout the country because the electorate says they are a very good thing to have. I know they are good and very beautiful. There are many beautiful things in this world that we have to wait to provide. I cannot imagine how they will do it. Undoubtedly, an annual plan exists for construction projects, an annual plan for hospitals. Before the hospital plan is agreed, what the electorate has asked for in each district cannot even be considered. The public health statistics are the ones that have to be used in the decisions, such as so many beds per thousand inhabitants, where the hospitals are most needed, and the same is the case with child care centers, schools and so forth. This means that perhaps Camaguey's electorate could be asking for another hospital while Moron's electorate does not have a hospital. It is necessary to build the Moron hospital first and later on in Nuevitas and later on in Guantanamo and later on in Granma before one is built in Camaguey. It must be statistics and concrete needs which guide the decision where to build the hospital.

Do you know where we began building hospitals under this program that has been followed the past 5 years? We begin in those locations where there were two women who were going to give birth in one bed, or were waiting for childbirth, let us say, in one bed. I know almost by heart the names of those places. Among them was Pinar del Rio. We had to seek improvised solutions while the hospital was being built. The same happened in Granma.

So if the constituents of any other place which does not have that situation ask for a hospital, it must be clearly explained to them that the hospital cannot be built there because there are other places that need it more, that it must be planned, that there are other places with a more serious situation. What I am trying to say is that we must be understanding, that there are human beings with numerous anxieties, needs and problems, and on the other hand we have the realities. Our people's capacity for understanding is enormous, immense. It has been demonstrated throughout all these years of revolution. What we need is to explain the problems adequately. They must not be misunderstood. Some factors should not be confused with others, the objective ones with the subjective. That would be a situation similar to when we were the children on the eve of three wise men's day.

I can remember what was going through my mind on the eve of three wise men's day. Although I was not from a poor family, there were times when I went through bad times because of circumstances. There were a few of those three wise men's days...[leaves thought unfinished] in reality I should have been a musician. My parents sent me to live with a family so that I could attend school. While there, I experienced very bad times. I spent three wise men's days there. I always asked for a locomotive and millions of other things. I used to write a long letter, but all I got on three wise men's days was a cardboard trumpet. [laughter] Another year passed by and I repeated my requests, I even got some herbs and placed them in a glass of water under the bed. That was supposed to be for the camels carrying Balthazar, Melchor and the other, Gaspar. And again I got another trumpet, half cardboard and half metal. On the third year I wrote a longer and more eloquent letter to convince the wise men, but again I got another trumpet. [laughter] That was the third trumpet, but this one had three keys and was made of aluminum.

That is life, one continuous problem. In a country such as ours, which has accumulated so much poverty, so much wretchedness, the people still look at the revolution as if it were one wise man. We must tell them not to look at the revolution as if it were one wise man. The same is the case with the people's government, that they look at it as if it were a wise man. They ask it for everything, all that has been accumulated since the days of Christopher Columbus--not since the days of the neocolonized republic.

Let me add something more: With blockade and without blockade, we will have these problems for another 20 years at least. We will have many problems. They will continue for another 20 years. You must be aware of that. Those are problems caused by poverty. We are not discovering something new. That is caused by underdevelopment. Of course, imperialism is attempting to make our development a very difficult task. That is what it is all about. But if they were to lift the blockade tomorrow, we would be deceived by the greatest of illusions, greater than the one I had when I wrote to the three wise men believing that all problems would be solved.

We have at least another 20 years ahead of us with many difficulties, and there is something else: We will have to make decisions on these problems courageously. I am referring to the objective ones, not the subjective. I want to repeat it for the third or fourth time. These limitations with material resources...[leaves thought unfinished] let us suppose that the subjective part of the problem works out smoothly. Let us suppose that the miracle of everybody working perfectly is performed and that we distribute the resources we have in an optimum manner. We will still have similar problems for another 20 years.

Supposing many resources became available, that the price of sugar--the one that has been quoted at less than 7 cents in the world market, at less than 7, at 7 and something even (?less)--goes up to 40 cents. We would be a bunch of idiots if we thought that we could eliminate these headaches. Those resources would have to be invested in development. Any other decision would mean that the problems would be eternal. If we are able to solve these problems, 20 years from now we will have other problems, problems of another type. Perhaps the problem will be too much smoke from the factory smokestacks, the environment. Mankind will always have all kinds of problems.

But what we have now is that the house or building is falling down and we do not have enough lumber, and we have a leak here and another over there. Many of those problems created by the lack of resources, those problems of today--the only way to emerge out of them is with development. Many of these problems are social. They are included in the category of social problems. The investments for solving these problems are called social investments. Social investments are hospitals, schools, sports centers and so forth. Housing is also a social investment. The same is true for sewer and water services and so forth.

Following good technical and economic science, an underdeveloped country has to allocate a larger portion of its resources for economic investments, for industrial development, for social investments. For example, the country has already attained a fairly high level of school construction. This was reached in recent years. Let us say, as an example, there is an [annual] equivalent of 200 rural basic secondary schools. That level must be maintained, at the level of 200 per year. We should not raise it to 220, 250 or 300. No, we have reached a satisfactory level in construction or investment in schools. The same is the case with child care centers. We have reached 80 and we should not go over 80 per year. The attained level is reasonable. The attained level in highways and roads and in railroads is reasonable. There is no reason to raise it; we should keep it as it is.

Now, investments in housing are still very low. They are growing though. We hope to reach the 50,000 level by the end of this 5-year period. You know that very important construction materials industries are about to be completed. Among them are two large cement plants which will more than double current cement production.

In this 5-year period we are making important investments for the development of the country. The social investments which have to increase are housing, solution of problems such as waterworks, sewers and so forth. What level are we trying to achieve? One hundred thousand, which is considered to be the necessary minimum to be able to solve the problem gradually. We will reach 50,000 by 1980. The 1981-85 5-year plan is already under study.

Not only are we doing that; we are also preparing a study that will help predict development through the year 2000. So, for the next party congress, we will have a second 5-year plan which will be better prepared and more thoroughly studied, well ahead of time. Two years after that, we will have a plan through the year 2000 which will allow us to know each and every thing we have to do during that period of time, such as social and industrial investments. From 1980 to 1985, we hope to reach the 100,000 level of housing construction, increasing 10,000 every year. After 1985 we will build nearly 100,000 per year because, after 1985, it will remain at that level; it will not increase to 110, to 120 [thousand]. The same is the case for schools from 1980 to 1985. If the attained level is 200, it will stay at 200 per year. If the center's level is 80, it will remain at 80 and so forth. The level of housing will grow until 1985, but after that it will stop.

In order to solve the problem of development, the country needs an increasingly larger percentage of investments in industry every 5-year period. That is the only way to end the calamities and the rosary of problems. That is the only way. The country will have to face an extraordinary challenge from 1980 to 2000. All details are undergoing a thorough scrutiny, how they affect the standard of living, which problems to solve, how to solve them. Allow me to add that by building 100,000 per year from 1985 to 2000, the housing problem will be 85 percent solved. Even in the year 2000, we will not be able to say that the housing problem is 100 percent solved.

The country will have to face an extraordinary challenge in the next 20 to 25 years. What is required in imports and what is required in exports in order to solve those problems? There is another social aspect here. We acquired an importing way of thinking. Everybody talked about importing, importing, importing, and nobody talked about exporting. Imports must be paid for with exports. We are conducting studies to determine the rate of growth of exports per year. It must be at a remarkable rate following a program of industrialization. All that is being scrutinized. That is why we feel that more and more time should be given to the issue of economic problems in these assembly meetings, in the annual plan, in the 5-year plan and in the prediction plan [plan pronostico].

I can advance the following information: If in this 5-year period investment amounts to 7 billion, the estimate for the next 5-year period is 21 billion, including social and economic investments--of course, the economic ones will be assigned a greater percentage. That is three times what we have for the current period. The first studies show that. These studies are being thoroughly scrutinized, with great care. When we have that 5-year plan completed, it should become the program that all delegates from the districts--everybody--follow. It must be known which industry goes in which municipality, which city, which location, where to invest. There will always be some reserves. If 240,000 houses are going to be built, funds for all of them are not allocated. A reserve of 30,000 or 40,000 or 20,000 is retained in order to assign some to areas where there is an urgent need, as in case of hurricanes, a catastrophe, anything.

We must always keep a reserve for unanticipated situations. In recent years we have not had that reserve because finances have been very tight. We have had to work without reserves in this or that, such as lumber, cement or other materials. Everybody is going to know what the plan assigns to each municipality, each city, or what each has to do. The same thing is going to be done for the next 20 years. The ideas will be a bit more generalized, of course, not so concrete, so exact. We have the feeling that the 5-year plan and the prediction plan will become truly economic plans for all the people. We are lacking that. That is what I said we are lacking.

During the first years we devoted a lot of time to reforms of structures, to the revolution, to survival. We have achieved many things. The reforms were conducted. The revolution survived and strengthened, and today we have it here. We have taken more time than was necessary in reaching what I am talking about, the revolution's plan of economic development. We are lacking that tool. We have the political and ideological programs in many things, but we lack a program which will become a work banner for all the people, for the party and government leaderships, for all party and government cadres, for all party militants, for all militants of mass organizations, for all people. They must know what we want. They must have a clear idea of their country through the year 2000, what the country wants to do, because socialism means just that: the opportunity for the people to do what is convenient for them to do. [applause] That is in our hands, in the people's hands. It is not in the hands of capitalist or transnational enterprises or multinational enterprises. Nothing of that; it is in our hands.

What resources do we have if we are rich or poor in natural resources; if we are oil-producing or not? In simple terms, if oil is expensive and we have to import it, how do we pay for it? What raw materials did nature give us and which ones did it not give us? Which raw materials do we have to import to overcome calamities? Which resources have to be developed and with which financial resources? And from where? And how? How many factories have to be built of each type? Which things are we lacking? What is rational and logical to produce here? Out of 10 things we produce, how many do we consume and how many do we export? Of everything, even including fabrics? We do not have enough fabrics. If the factory is new and produces something of good quality and if there is a surplus of 3 meters, do we use the 3 meters or export half? Then, we would use only 1.5 meters. We have to pay for the raw materials to produce that good-quality fabric and so forth. And which export policy must be followed, because a very small country cannot be self-sufficient? It is impossible for it to be autarkic in today's world. We have to export not just one thing but many things.

We will even have to export industrial commodities. We have the markets. We have them with or without blockade. In order to have a good estimate, we have to base it on having the blockade until the year 2000, and in addition to laugh about the blockade. [applause]

We need that flag. We need that education. That is what we were referring to when I said our (lack) from the idealism and subjectivism and so forth to the rigorous and careful manner in which we are beginning to do our work. In the next 20 years the university technicians, university graduates will join...[leaves thought unfinished] All this colossal educational effort of recent years will bear fruit. Our universities already have around 130,000 students and by 1985 there will be 300,000. We are going to produce engineers, technicians, economists and physicians not only for us, not only for us; we are going to produce technicians for many Third World countries which have not had these opportunities. A program such as ours requires 30 years.

For a university to increase registration from 15,000, or zero because they were closed, to 300,000 takes a long period of time. The country is going to have all those elements. The workers will have a minimum sixth grade education and then will struggle for a minimum of worker faculty. Imagine the levels of preparation we will have. We will have strengthened the training of qualified personnel and technicians. We will improve the quality of our polytechnic and technological schools. We will supply them with everything that is needed, just like the universities. I asked: What resource do we have? Well, there is one resource: man's brain. We are not oil-producing but we have brains like everybody else has. And we are going to develop them and we are developing them.

That will be one of the country's great resources. Whatever we have, even if in small quantities, has to be known by everybody because each nation has to know from what it is going to live. The people have to know from what they are going to live. The revolution gives us the opportunity of answering that question. So far we have not known how to take advantage of that in all its extraordinary possibilities. I believe that, when the party gives us that economic plan, we will have a great banner in our hands in order to work with enthusiasm, with a clear vision of the future, with all the spirit needed to stand up before all constituents if it becomes necessary with all the elements in hand, with all clear ideas so that no one feels that a pretext or argument is being invented in cases of problems of the objective type, in the face of aspirations which cannot be immediately realized.

All this will occur while we improve the subjective elements. There is where man is failing. From the baker to the man operating the restaurant or bus, to the one tightening the screws of the transmission housing, they all are failing.

These are (?antidotal): In order to overcome our difficulties, what we have to do is not devote ourselves to enjoying the great things but to those things that are failing. Our experience, such as the establishment of the people's government, we believe has been an extraordinary experience, an extraordinary progress, a new weapon, a powerful tool of the revolutionary process, a way of incorporating the people, the masses. We must perfect the process. All new experiences must be widely disseminated, broadened. We must try to attain increasing efficiency in the delegate, in the municipal assembly, in the executive bodies, in the area bodies of each of those organs of the people's government. We must not confuse this with that. We must not confuse the responsibility of central organizations with that of local organizations. We must work and try to find the problems.

It has been determined that one of the functions of the National Assembly is to call a minister in to report, to explain whenever it finds it to be pertinent. Comrade Beltran had the honor of being the first one to be called in by the assembly. [applause] We have to seek solutions to the problems.

Comrades, I was left with some uneasiness yesterday. Comrade Blas asked me if I had any ideas and I had to think about all this problem to try to understand it and to try to explain it. That is all, comrades. [applause]

OSVALDO DORTICOS ADDRESSES SCHOOL GRADUATION

FL042237Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 4 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has presided over the fourth graduation of students from the (Julian Grimau) technical institute, which is under the State Committee for Labor and Social Security. The graduates will work as midlevel technicians in work and salary organization and in occupational health and safety. In his closing remarks, Dorticos pointed out the special significance these two disciplines have in our country.

BARBADOS

FORDE SAYS OAS CAN PLAY BIGGER HUMAN RIGHTS ROLE

FL031555Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Jun 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Barbados' Minister of External Affairs Mr. Henry Forde believes that the Organisation of American States (OAS) could play a much more leading role in the promotion of human rights in the area, although the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights is doing a good job.

Mr. Forde, who is also this country's attorney-general, had called for major changes in the administrative structure and policies of the OAS while attending the OAS General Assembly in Washington last week.

The minister told a press conference last Tuesday at the Pine Studio of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) that the OAS had become "a highly legalistic assembly" in which one listened to a lot of speeches and split hairs on all the small points.

"The Permanent Council, which is composed of ambassadors representing their country, spend a lot of time discussing very small issues and trying to interfere in the day-to-day administration of the OAS," the minister said.

He said that the point was made that if a secretary-general and a competent staff were placed to run a body, their duty "is to carry out directions."

Mr. Forde added that the Permanent Council as well as the General Assembly should look at policy, and the secretary-general and his staff should also help to create policy.

"The OAS has spent a lot of time merely making pious statements on how distinguished all the foreign ministers are and the usual diplomatic language, and not getting on with the job in some areas," he charged.

The minister also believes that the issues in Latin America that may lead to conflict and confrontation should be attended to.

He listed these as the position of land-locked Bolivia, which can't get proper access to the sea; the Belizean question; and the problems of border disputes sometimes between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Mr. Forde further believes that the OAS should concentrate much more on the economic issues facing the region in a more concerted manner.

"And, in this respect I think we should be doing our adequate research and homework to confront the developed countries in relation to negotiations of the economic order," he said.

The minister said that he laid particular stress on the economies of island countries such as Barbados.

He said that nobody had done any research on that yet and it was a problem that concerned the islands of the Caribbean and those of the Pacific.

The attorney-general felt that the OAS and the regional institutions should be directing their attention to that sort of problem.

Regarding more benefits to Barbados from the OAS, Mr. Forde told the press conference that the Ministry of External Affairs and government have done quite well with the OAS.

"We now get something like US \$619,000 a year out of the OAS, as opposed to US \$149,000 a year when I became minister of foreign affairs," he said.

The minister added that in two years that was one of the other things the government had managed to do.

He also noted that Barbados had signed the American convention of human rights at the OAS meeting and explained that the implications for Barbados is that the country would now have to look towards changing its legislation in some areas to see whether the country could ratify the convention.

One such area, he observed, is in relation to capital punishment.

"We may be able to reserve our position on certain areas of capital punishment but that's an area where the convention says that you should not have capital punishment for political crimes like treason," Mr. Forde submitted.

He declared that Barbados is examining the law now and then government would take policy decision as to whether the country ratify without reserving its position or whether the country have reservations that are consonant with the legislation.

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